

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Department: Marine Resources

AGENDA ITEM WORDING:
Provide direction to staff on Card Sound Road boat ramp project near the County Card Sound Toll Booth.

ITEM BACKGROUND: In the fall of 2002, the Board requested staff utilize existing grant funds to complete engineering for the ramp and adjacent retaining structure and to acquire permits so that improvements can be made. The engineering design has been completed. Although specific cost estimates have not yet been completed, the staff believes that these estimated costs may range between \$500,000 to \$750,000 to rebuild the boat ramp, retaining wall, and improve the adjacent parking lot area. Additionally, the County learned very recently, that the land-side portion of the property is not owned by the County as originally thought, which further complicates permitting and construction of the project.

- (1) Obtain a commitment from a State agency (i.e., FWC, FDEP, or FDOT) to take over the project; provide engineering plans for the site to that agency and transfer current permit application over to that agency; and, have State fund the construction and assume all responsibility for the project; and,
- (2) If the staff is unable to get commitment from a State agency to take over the project, the staff will bring back to the Board for its consideration as a proposal with estimated construction costs and funding for the County to move forward on the project on its own initiative.

Approved the preparation of engineering plans and permits for project in fall of 2002 using grant funds.

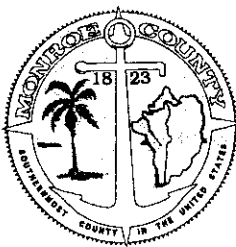
NA

Approve course of action recommended by staff.

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 13

MEMORANDUM

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Board of County Commissioners
Mayor Murray Nelson, Dist. 5
Mayor Pro Tem David Rice, Dist. 4
Commissioner Dixie Spehar, Dist. 1
Commissioner George Neugent, Dist. 2
Commissioner Charles "Sonny" McCoy, Dist. 3

DATE: 2 August, 2004

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: George Garrett, Director of Marine Resources *George Garrett*

SUBJECT: **Discussion of options to proceed
on the Card Sound Road boat ramp**

Background:

In the fall of 2002, the Board requested staff to use existing grant funds to completing the design and engineering for the replacement/reconstruction of a boat ramp and unpaved parking area at the eastern approach to the Card Sound Road toll booth. The staff estimates that the expected cost of the restoration/reconstruction of this ramp is over \$500,000.

Issue

Over the past year, the County's engineering consultant has completed engineering plans and initiated permitting for rebuilding the boat ramp, retaining wall and improving the adjacent parking area. Construction costs have not been provided by the consultant; however, the staff believes that such costs will range from \$500,000 to \$750,000.

It was County's understanding, as well as that of the State initially, that the County owned a portion of the boat ramp and parking area as part of the right-of-way for Card Sound Road. The County staff also understood that the state owned the portion of the property on the water side of the ramp.

However, the staff was recently informed by the Title and Land Records Section of DEP that recent surveys by its staff indicate that the County does not own any portion of the ramp facility site. Therefore, with no legal title to the property in question the application previously submitted has been put on hold by DEP staff in Marathon, as an applicant must be the owner of the property or have a lease.

Options and Analysis

To move forward on this project, the staff has identified the following two options available to the County:

- (1) Continue with the current permit application in conjunction with pursuing a lease agreement with the State; and provide local and/or secure grant funding for construction and assume all responsibility for the project; or
- (2) Obtain commitment from a State agency (FWC, DEP, or FDOT) to take over the project; provide engineering plans and transfer current permit application over to that agency; and, have State fund the construction and assume all responsibility for the project.

Option 1. If the County wishes to ensure that this ramp is improved, then it will need to take the initiative. As this property and ramp weren't acknowledged to be in the ownership of the State until recently, this project is not contained in any State agency's plans, programs, or budget. To take the initiative, the County could either acquire a lease for the property from the state or if under FDOT control, request that they authorize improvements to the site as they have done with the County for ramps on U.S. 1.

A real limitation on pursuing this option, is that the County would be obligated to fund a project that may cost well over \$500,000. Unless a grant can be obtained for a major portion of this project, funding would have to come from local sources. Boating Improvements Funds are limited and funding for this project has not been included in the proposed FY 05 budget.

Option 2. The second option requires the County to lobby for a State agency to take over the project, which no agency has shown any willingness to do so up until this time. However, this option may be the most practical to pursue first, rather than Option 1, due to lack of available funding.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners direct staff to pursue getting a State agency to take over the project. If within the next three months, no State agency appears willing to commit to the project, then the staff will report back to the BOCC and present for its consideration a proposal with estimated construction costs and funding for the County to move forward on the project.